

A THIRD SPECIMEN OF *CELIDOPHYLLA ALBIMACULA*
(ORTHOPTERA: TETTIGONIIDAE) AND REMARK ON
THE EMERGENCE OF DIPTERA FROM INSECT CARRION¹

Charles L. Hogue²

ABSTRACT: A female *Celidophylla albimacula* (third-known specimen) is recorded from Costa Rica, having been found dead on the ground like the only other existing female specimen. The author suggests caution regarding conclusions that sarcophagid larvae emerging from the latter specimen indicate true parasitism.

The photograph of a female *Celidophylla albimacula* Saussure and Pictet published recently by Allen Young (1978) caused me to recall that I had acquired a specimen of the same species, under somewhat similar conditions, likewise in Costa Rica. It is also a female and is deposited in the collection of the Entomology Section of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, California. Unfortunately, the actual collector (who found the specimen lying dead in the road and brought it to the author) did not remember the exact locality, having inadvertently mixed the insect with some other biological samples. It was found in August 1964. Because of the extreme rarity and distinctiveness of this species, it seems worthwhile to make note here of this additional specimen.

Young comments on the emergence of sarcophagid larvae from his still-living but incapacitated female, which was lying on the forest floor. While it is possible that the larvae were indeed parasites, my own experience in the tropics with large moribund and dead insects that accumulate on the ground under lights makes me cautious toward this conclusion. Such insect carrion attracts Sarcophagidae in the same manner as does vertebrate carcasses and other saprogenous matter, and the larviparous habit of many species of this fly family, as well as the warm climate, result in very rapid infestation by and development of their larvae. I think it premature, therefore, to ascribe parasitism by this family to *Celidophylla albimacula* even provisionally, on the basis of Young's observations.

REFERENCES

- Young, A.M. 1978. New Record of neotropical katydid *Celidophylla albimacula* (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) and parasitism, from Costa Rica. Entomol. News 88: 210-212.

¹Received March 3, 1979

²Curator of Entomology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California 90007.